

REMARKS

The Examiner's outstanding Office Action mailed April 20, 2007 has been carefully considered. Various paragraphs of the specification have been amended to correct typographical errors. Claims 1, 10, 11, and 15-16 have been amended. Claim 10 was amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 26 has been newly added. Claims 1-26 are pending in this application.

Embodiments of the claimed invention include a wireless communication system incorporating a plurality of synchronized wireless units. At least some of the units minimize energy requirements by entering an inactive mode between synchronizing signals. At least some of the units enter an active state prior to the receipt of the next synchronizing signal and are in wireless communication with other wireless units in the plurality while in an active state. Also, at least some of the units remain in the active state for a period of time until wireless communication with other wireless units in the plurality has ceased.

Claims 1-6, 8, 15-19, 21 and 24 are not anticipated by van Bokhorst et al. Unlike the claimed invention, in the first embodiment disclosed in van Bokhorst et al., "all messages are transmitted via the access point 16, that is, direct message transmission between two stations is not possible." (col. 4, ll. 13-15).

Furthermore, unlike in the claimed invention, in the second embodiment disclosed in van Bokhorst et al., when a synchronization signal is received, a wireless station enters an inactive mode. "The reception of a PSYNC message at stations 220 other than the master station triggers the doze timer 246 (FIG. 9) at those stations to initiate a doze interval of low power operation." (col. 8, ll. 16-19). "The doze timer 246 is triggered after every PSYNC message reception." (col. 8, ll. 43-44). Therefore, van Bokhorst et al. does not anticipate any of claims 1-6, 8, 15-19,

21, or 24, and applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 7 and 11. Neither claim 7 nor claim 11 is made obvious by van Bokhorst et al. in view of Chung et al. As discussed above, van Bokhorst et al. does not anticipate the claimed invention. Rather, van Bokhorst et al. teaches away from the claimed invention. In the first embodiment of van Bokhorst et al., the wireless stations cannot receive data having a different protocol from the synchronizing signal. “[D]irect message transmission between two stations is not possible.” (col. 4, ll. 14-15). In the second embodiment of van Bokhorst et al., the wireless stations enter a doze state when a synchronization signal is received. “The doze timer 246 is triggered after every PSYNC message reception.” (col. 8, ll. 43-44).

Furthermore, Chung et al. does not make up for the deficiencies of van Bokhorst et al. as discussed above because Chung et al. does not appear to address mobile units entering a lower power state or remaining in an active state until wireless communication between mobile units has ceased. There is no reason, given the teachings of Chung et al., to modify van Bokhorst et al. to make either claim 7 or claim 11 obvious, and applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Finally, claims 9-10, 12-14, 20, 22-23, and 25 are not made obvious by van Bokhorst et al. in view of O'Scolai, in view of Chung et al. and O'Scolai, or in view of Lucas et al.. As discussed above, van Bokhorst et al. teaches away from the claimed invention. Furthermore, neither Chung et al., O'Scolia, nor Lucas et al. make up for the deficiencies of van Bokhorst et al because none appear to address mobile units entering a lower power state or remaining in an active state until wireless communication between the mobile units has ceased. One of ordinary

skill in the art would have had no motivation, absent the teachings of the present application, to modify van Bokhorst et al. so as to make any of claims 9-10, 12-14, 20, 22-23, or 25 obvious. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the application, including the newly added claim. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution hereof, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, such as a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 20, 2007

By 
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